

Ricchiuti's volunteerism and her philanthropic spirit, the time and produce that she has donated has benefited multiple organizations in the Fresno area including numerous schools within the Clovis Unified School District, the Fresno Art Museum, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Junior League of Fresno and Assistance League of Fresno. She has made donations to various California State University organizations and the not-for-profit hospitals in the region.

For Mrs. Ricchiuti's commitment and dedication to her community, she has been recognized as the "California State University, Fresno Alumni of the Year" from the School of Arts and Humanities, the "Arthur Safstrom Award for Outstanding Service to Fresno State." She has also been named the California State University, Fresno Alumni Association "Top Dog," the Association of Fundraising Professionals "Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year," and the Foundation for Clovis Schools "Guardian of the Year."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Vinci Ricchiuti upon being named a "2009 Common Threads Honoree" by California State University, Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Ricchiuti many years of continued success.

HONORING DOCTOR CHARLES
JOHNSON

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the honoring of his lifetime achievement by one of Seattle's historic organizations and keeper of the arts, the Rainier Club, the people of the State of Washington hold up as a national inspiration the work of one of the world's most distinguished authors, Seattle's own Dr. Charles Johnson.

Dr. Johnson made the journey to Seattle from Long Island in 1976 to teach at the University of Washington. He noted in *Smithsonian Magazine* in 2008 that Seattle is "an ideal environment for nurturing innovation, individualism and the creative spirit." It is in this setting that Dr. Johnson has made a uniquely rich array of contributions to the arts and letters, and became one of his generation's most distinguished African American authors.

While his works are too numerous to list, Madam Speaker, Dr. Johnson counts among his literary gems four novels, *Faith and the Good Thing*, *Oxherding Tale*, *Middle Passage*, and *Dreamer*; as well as short stories, screenplays, aesthetics, comic art, and *King: The Photobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* His awards and honors are as abundant as they are approbative.

Dr. Johnson noted in Seattle's *Post-Intelligencer* on April 27, 2007 that American society is threatened by a "diminished literary culture," the cure for which is "the experience of complex, well-wrought, visionary books that challenge our assumptions, our intellectual laziness, and transform as well as deepen our perceptions of the world and ourselves." While he probably intended otherwise, this describes Dr. Johnson's own pivotal role in our literary ethos, as his works consistently have challenged readers' assumptions and intellectual

laziness while transforming and deepening our world view and our self-knowledge.

Dr. Johnson's influence is international, but it is our honor that his presence is local to Washington State's 7th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF THE PERFORMING
ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY
(PAWS)

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 25th anniversary of the founding of The Performing Animal Welfare Society, PAWS, which continues to valiantly lead efforts to protect all animals and to ensure proper humane sanctuary for wildlife who have experienced the inhumanity of the exotic and performing animal trades.

In 1984, Pat Derby and Ed Stewart founded PAWS, sharing their commitment to develop a pristine sanctuary for abused, neglected and retired wildlife. Throughout the last 25 years, I am proud to have worked with PAWS to ensure improved, humane standards for captive wildlife. An early success for PAWS and animal rights activists was celebrated in 1985 with the passing of California Assembly Bill 1620 which introduced humane standards for the care and handling of wildlife. Following that initial success, more support was garnered which led the California Assembly to pass the Elephant Bill in 1995. This historic statute mandated that elephants be provided minimum adequate space to move freely and prohibited the use of chains for confinement.

Building on previous accomplishments, PAWS forged a bipartisan partnership with Congress in 1997 to pass the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. In another watershed moment for animal protection advocates, this important legislation provided financial assistance for projects intended to protect Asian elephants and blocked funding for captive breeding programs. As a co-sponsor of the original Act, and having twice voted to fully fund the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Acts of 2001 and 2007, I understand the importance and deeply appreciate the beneficence of PAWS. In addition to protecting elephants, PAWS has successfully implemented solutions to rescue and relocate over 35 tigers and other animals from breeding facilities.

Through The Performing Animal Welfare Society's extraordinary accomplishments, which now includes over 2,400 acres of natural protected sanctuaries, countless captive animals have been rescued from hazardous and inhumane conditions and have been provided with healthy and sustainable environments in which to live quality lives. Without their steadfast support and dedication for the humane treatment of wildlife, our nation's efforts to protect these animals would be drastically impaired.

Madam Speaker, it is with the upmost respect and gratitude that I rise to honor the 25th anniversary of PAWS and especially to pay tribute to Pat Derby and Ed Stewart.

TRIBUTE TO THE BOOKER T.
WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1949

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and extend my congratulations to the Booker T. Washington High School Class of 1949 as they prepare to celebrate their 60th class reunion. Booker T. Washington High School is located in Overtown, Miami, Florida, which is in my congressional District.

Founded in 1926 for African-American students residing from West Palm Beach to Key West, Booker T. Washington High School has served as a stalwart in the Miami-Dade County community since its inception. By 1949, Booker T. Washington High School was one of three African-American high schools in Miami-Dade County and since then has become a vital center for cultural activities in Overtown.

The Class of 1949 was the first high school alumni group in South Florida to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a holiday. Additionally, the Class of 1949 has been the sole alumni group in the country to file and successfully conclude a Civil Rights Action, specifically a public accommodation lawsuit against a commercial establishment. Moreover, many "49ers" have engaged in charitable endeavors including granting educational scholarships, annual contributions and support to the United Negro College Fund, the Black Archives and the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

Noteworthy achievements by the "49ers" include: the first African-American elected to public office in Miami-Dade County as a County Commissioner, the first African-American to serve as chairman of a board in Miami-Dade County the Fair Housing and Employment Commission and the first African-American to serve as a head coach at a fully integrated public high school in Miami-Dade County.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate Booker T. Washington High School for its remarkable role in fostering education among African-Americans and implore its alumni to ensure that future generations have educational access to foster the skills to face complex challenges. I once again extend my congratulations to the members of the Booker T. Washington High School Class of 1949 as they prepare to celebrate their 60th class reunion.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCH-
ESTER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BAS-
KETBALL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to extend my congratulations to the Rochester High School Boys Basketball Team. The Zebras succeeded in placing second in the IHSAA 3-A State Tournament on March 28, 2009 at Conseco Field House in Indianapolis. After making it to the championship

game, they suffered a narrow 79–81 double-overtime loss against the Princeton Tigers.

Returning only two starters from the previous year, the Rochester Zebras enjoyed an incredible season, showing a strong work ethic in their practices and throughout the regular season in order to advance to the IHSAA 3-A State Tournament. The Zebras played brilliantly during the tournament and despite their close loss in the final game, their great effort capped off an impressive 23–4 season.

The Rochester team has 13 members including seniors Bruce Grimm, Jr., Brody Schoen, Austin Lowe and Jason Smith; Juniors Garrett Winegar, Marc Bowers and Colt Meadows; and Sophomores Nate Basham, Evan Hoff, Collin Harris, Cameron Screeton, Cahner Thompson and Chris Messersmith. The Zebras are led by senior Bruce Grimm, Jr., who averaged an impressive 25.2 points per game and had 40 points in the championship game.

During the championship game, the Rochester Zebras completed 15 three-point shots, setting a new IHSAA record.

I also want to acknowledge the wonderful support the team had from Head Coach Rob Malchow and Assistant Coaches Rex Reinholt, Sean Kelly, Dwayne Stiles, Mike Malchow and Mike Barnett. They helped guide the Zebras to victory. I would also like to thank Principal Dan Ronk, Assistant Principal Jana Vance, Athletic Director Mark Miller and above all, the fans in the community, many of whom traveled to Indianapolis for the game and gathered to welcome the team home upon their return.

I offer my hardy congratulations to the members of the boys' basketball team of Rochester High School, the coaching staff, the school administration, and the community for their accomplishments this season on the road to their second place finish in the IHSAA 3-A State Basketball Tournament.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JUDGE
CHARLES J. VALLONE SCHOLAR-
SHIP DINNER DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay honor to the organizers of the Judge Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner, to the dinner's honorees and to the students who receive scholarships as a result of the generosity of dinner attendees. The scholarship, named for the late Charles J. Vallone, has awarded over half a million dollars to graduating high school seniors from Astoria, making it possible for these bright students to enroll in the colleges of their choice.

Judge Charles Vallone, father of former City Council Speaker Peter Vallone and grandfather of City Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr., founded the Astoria Civic Association with a group of concerned neighbors in 1928. The association was incorporated by the state of New York in 1933 and Judge Vallone served as its first executive chairman. After Judge Vallone died in 1967, his widow, Leah Vallone, founded the scholarship fund in his memory. The Vallone Scholarship fund has grown to be one of the largest private scholarship funds in New York state.

This month, the Astoria Civic Association holds its annual Judge Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner Dance at the Riccardo's by the Bridge in Astoria, Queens. George Alexiou and Gloria DeMarco Aloise, two extraordinary people who are truly pillars of the community, will be this year's honorees. They each have demonstrated remarkable leadership and have been instrumental in supporting the Astoria Civic Association's vital mission.

George Alexiou embodies the American immigrant success story. He was born and raised in Greece. Following his service in the Greek Army, he went to the Hotel Manager School in Heidelberg, Germany, where he studied for two years. He then worked for two years at the Hilton Hotel in Dusseldorf, Germany, and also worked in the hotel business in Paris and London. In 1972, Mr. Alexiou moved to Astoria, New York. For ten years, Mr. Alexiou worked in top restaurants and hotels before leaving the hospitality industry to start his own business. He established Century 21 Alexiou Realty, which helps Queens residents find housing and enables many to begin the American dream of home ownership. Mr. Alexiou is honorary President of the Greek American Homeowners Association, and is a member of Queens Community Board 1 and the Astoria/Long Island City Kiwanis Club. He resides in Astoria with his lovely wife, Elpidia.

Gloria DeMarco Aloise grew up in a political family and has spent a lifetime involved in Queens politics, particularly through the Taminent Democratic Club. Ms. Aloise is a Democratic District Leader for 36th Assembly District, and has provided organizational skills and guidance to every local elected official in Western Queens. Ms. Aloise has also been an inspiration to countless community leaders through her tireless efforts to improve the quality of life of all the residents of Astoria, New York. Ms. Aloise is active in many community organizations, including the Martin De Porres School, where she has served as a teacher and a caseworker. She is supported by her devoted husband Edward, and by her children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to all those who have made the Judge Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner possible and in recognizing the accomplishments of its sponsor, the Astoria Civic Association, and its distinguished 2009 honorees.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF ALTERNATIVE HOUSE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization serving at-risk youth in Fairfax County. Alternative House was founded in 1972 as the first emergency shelter for runaway teenagers in Northern Virginia. Through counseling, shelter, crisis intervention and neighborhood outreach, Alternative House provides support to at-risk young children, teens and their families. Recognizing the interdependence of families, Alternative House programs seek to empower young children,

teens, and families to work together and build on their strengths.

Alternative House has grown organically from its origins in a trailer on the grounds of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church to a renovated house located on Gallows Road in Dunn Loring. While Alternative House's programs have grown, the organization continues to focus on those most in need of assistance and those with the greatest possibility for making life-altering changes.

In 1993, Alternative House embarked on an aggressive outreach program for at-risk youth. The effort consisted of a mobile unit with two counselors who walked through our neighborhoods to provide young people with support, resources, and guidance. Since its origins, the Community Outreach Program has expanded to include additional recreation and education services designed to help children and teens stay in school.

In 2002, Alternative House expanded its assistance outreach by opening the Assisting Young Mothers program. This program seeks to provide shelter, education, counseling and support to young women who are homeless, pregnant or already parenting. These programs give young people hope for brighter futures.

In 2008, Alternative House's Emergency Shelter for Teenagers provided safe shelter, food and counseling to an average of more than eighteen young people each month, totaling 220 for the year. In just the past twelve months, Alternative House provided neighborhood-based counseling, outreach, food and after-school programs to more than 1,800 at-risk youth in Fairfax County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the consistently growing and increasingly significant contributions of Alternative House to at-risk young people in Fairfax County. From both its origins to its current efforts, Alternative House is truly an exemplar for community-based assistance programs.

LEGISLATION TO CODIFY TITLE 53,
U.S. CODE—SMALL BUSINESS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and I are introducing a bill to codify into positive law as title 53, United States Code, certain general and permanent laws related to small business. This bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, as part of its ongoing responsibility under 2 U.S.C. §285b to prepare, and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

The bill restates the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, along with related provisions in other Acts, as a new positive law title of the United States Code. The new positive law title replaces the existing provisions, which are repealed by the bill.

This bill is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of nonsubstantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent